

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy No.: 04-02

Effective Date: 10-15-04

Revision Date: 11-03-20

Subject: Religious Programs

I. Policy Statement

The Division recognizes the right of all juveniles to adhere to the guidelines and beliefs of their religion (subject to the limitations necessary to maintain facility safety and security), including having access to clergy and religious materials. The Division shall provide the opportunity for participation in religious services or other activities; however participation in such activities within Division facilities/programs is strictly voluntary. The Division does not endorse any religion or religious organization.

II. Rationale

Juveniles have a constitutional right to practice their religious beliefs and the Division may not interfere with that right, unless reasonably necessary to prevent interference with security, programming and/or treatment needs of the juveniles. Additionally, religious organizations can assist juveniles while confined in Division facilities/programs and upon their release to the community.

III. Definitions

“Clergy” is a person who has an ecclesiastical relationship with the juvenile and is a duly ordained member of a religious group (e.g., priest, pastor, bishop, imam or rabbi).

A “religious worker” is a volunteer who is associated with a particular religion and wishes to interact with a juvenile in Division custody.

“Religious services” are organized assemblies for worship and sermons that are normally conducted by clergy on a religion’s Sabbath.

“Religious programs” are religious or faith based activities other than religious services.

IV. Procedures

A. Religious Services and Programs

1. Accommodations for religious visits or services shall be made for juveniles under the age of 18 with permission from their parents or legal guardian.
2. Accommodations for religious services shall be made for juveniles who wish to participate, provided they do not interfere with security, programming or the treatment needs of the juveniles. Every effort shall be made to accommodate

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the type of religious services requested by the juvenile and their parent(s) or guardian(s).

3. Accommodations for other religious activities, practices, or items may be made as long as they do not interfere with facility security, programming or treatment needs of the juveniles.
4. Accommodations shall be approved by the facility/program Assistant Program Director (APD). Approvals and denials shall be documented. Documentation shall include rationale (form 04-02B).
5. Staff shall supervise juveniles participating in religious services and activities in Division facilities/programs.
6. Participation in religious services and activities is strictly voluntary and juveniles shall not be required to participate, nor be confined or penalized for not participating.
7. Religious workers and clergy interacting with juveniles as part of scheduled programming shall meet the security and clearance requirements of JJS Criminal Background Checks Policy 01-08.
8. The facility/program APD may appoint a staff member as a volunteer coordinator to assist with organization and scheduling of religious services and activities as part of the Division's reasonable accommodation of such activities.
9. Juveniles shall have access to religious publications and written materials. Staff shall inspect materials for contraband prior to distribution. The quantity of material may be limited based on safety and storage concerns.

B. Clergy Notification and Visitation

1. Staff shall inform juveniles of their right to request, in writing, that their personal clergy be notified of their confinement, unless there is a "No Contact Order" by the court. The juvenile and a parent or guardian must sign the written request (form 04-02A), if the juvenile is under eighteen (18) years of age to authorize visitation by a personal clergy member who has not met the security clearance requirements.

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2. Upon a juvenile's request for notification and parent/guardian approval, staff shall make phone contact with the juvenile's personal clergy and inform them;
 - a. the juvenile is in the custody of the Division;
 - b. the location of the juvenile;
 - c. the juvenile has requested a visit by the clergy;
 - d. the need for confidentiality;
 - e. the clergy may visit during a requested appointment or during regular visiting hours.
3. Staff shall require clergy to sign in and show state issued picture identification prior to each visit subject to the facility visitation procedures.
4. During visitation, clergy may provide additional religious programming as pre-approved by the facility/program APD.

V. Continuous Renewal

This policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years to determine its effectiveness and appropriateness. This policy may be reviewed before that time to reflect substantive change.

This policy has been reviewed by the Division of Juvenile Justice Services Executive Management Team, and is approved upon the signature of the Director.



11-03-20

Brett Peterson, Director
Division of Juvenile Justice Services

Date